

As previously announced, CMS' Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) Center will be accepting retiree file submissions for the RDS program starting September 26, 2005. Sponsors must submit an initial list of retirees for whom the plan is seeking the subsidy by October 31, 2005 (though sponsors are encouraged to submit the list as early as possible and not wait until the deadline). They also must submit, on a monthly basis, an update file that indicates additions, changes and deletions to the retiree list.

In response to feedback from the public regarding file submission rules described at: http://rds.cms.hhs.gov/how_to_apply/RetireeListsFromPlanSponsors.pdf?cache=n, the RDS Center is pleased to announce that it will give applicants flexibility in how the submission of monthly retiree list updates may be completed. Applicants can have their monthly updates submitted from multiple sources, such as from different benefit option administrators used by the sponsor, provided all files are submitted using the same retiree list submission method (i.e., mainframe-to-mainframe, upload via the RDS Secure Web Site, or voluntary data sharing agreement). Please also note that applicants may still submit their monthly update in a single consolidated file if they so desire.

Applicants will be required to submit the initial retiree file (i.e., the file due by October 31, 2005 with the application) in a single consolidated file. However, the RDS Center will continue to explore additional flexibility in this process for future years.